

NORTH YORK LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
225 Duncan Mills Road, North York, Ontario M3B 3X9

May 24, 2007

Mr. Hy Eliasoph, CEO
Central Local Health Integration Network
140 Allstate Parkway, Suite 210
Markham, Ontario L3R 5Y8

Dear Mr. Eliasoph:

The North York Local Health Committee (LHC) was established by the Toronto Board of Health to provide advice on determining and setting public health policy on a broad range of local health issues and ensuring that the needs of local communities are reflected and addressed in public health programs, services and policies. It is made up of 13 citizen members who live or work within the Local Health Committee boundary and reflect the demographic diversity of the area.

The LHC has appreciated the opportunity to participate in your stakeholder consultation and appreciates your ongoing efforts at communication and a transparent planning process. We fully support the identified priorities of seniors and specialized geriatric services, chronic disease management and prevention, emergency services, wait times and cancer care. It is our opinion that these are important issues that accurately reflect the needs of the people who live in the north part of Toronto.

We are, however, concerned that maternal, child, and youth health has not been specifically identified as a priority. According to the Population Health Profiles for the Central LHIN, children and youth make up a significant portion of this LHIN's growing population. Although there is limited data reported specifically on the health of children and youth, there are a number of indicators that are cause for concern. While maternal conditions are slightly below the provincial rate, perinatal conditions are above the provincial rate and the low birth weight rate is higher than the Ontario average. Additionally, our knowledge of the North Toronto part of the LHIN, which makes up 24% of the total population, supports the need for children, youth and families to be named as a distinct priority. It is insufficient to believe that they will be adequately addressed within the health care area of family physicians.

We look forward to continued linkages with the Central Local Health Integration Network and invite you to attend our Local Health Committees anytime.

Sincerely,



Valerie Sterling, Chair
North York Local Health Committee